



Wendy and Stacey Nathanson, sisters-in-law, have opened Kidding Around.

Moms' new business is just 'Kidding Around'

BY PAUL R. PACE
STAFF WRITER

Sisters-in-law Stacey Nathanson and Wendy Nathanson are young mothers who live in Farmington Hills and they know what kids like to do.

They have been camp counselors, Sunday school teachers and best of all - moms. So when a major play-place facility closed not long ago, they decided to fill up the missing market with their own concept to keep kids entertained with their parents.

"I've been thinking about it for a year," said Stacey about opening a place up that caters to young imaginations.

The two opened Kidding Around in West Bloomfield. Their place offers a play area and rows of tables for arts and crafts projects.

Stacey has twins, Logan and Sierra, 7, and Wendy, who is a North Farmington High School graduate, has Samantha, 8.

"They're our best customers," Wendy said with a laugh.

Stacey said their original idea was just a play area, but the two decided to add arts and crafts to the offering.

The tables cater to different projects, such as plaster painting, sand art, candle making, candy sand and T-shirt painting.

Other projects will rotate monthly, the two said. Stacey noted the candy sand, which comes in different flavors and can be put in a tube for later consumption, is a favorite

among kids.

The two also offer parties for birthdays and other special occasions and can host them outside the business' regular hours.

The facility is open 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

The sisters-in-law also plan to work with schools in the area, including Walled Lake,

Farmington and West Bloomfield in offering craft projects for youngsters.

Kidding Around is located at 6271 Haggerty in West Bloomfield, across from the Meijer store.

Call them at (248) 926-KIDS (5437).

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Shabbat Rocks at Adat Shalom available on CD

Shabbat Rocks, the innovative worship ceremony introduced during the spring of 2001 at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, Michigan is now available as an experience for the home of ear.

The new "Shabbat Rocks, Volume 1: Kabbalat Shabbat" CD captures the spirit of lively, musical reverence across 26 songs ranging from traditional melodies to original compositions by Cantor Howard Glantz, who created Shabbat Rocks and brought it to life with the assistance of the other clergy and staff at Adat Shalom. The goal, according to Glantz, was to create an exciting and fresh way to observe Shabbat that reflects the joy and deep holiness of the weekly ritual.

The CD was funded by the Lillian Efron Kaufman Endowment for Special Musical Projects at Adat Shalom. Mrs. Kaufman's fund has allowed the synagogue to purchase important equipment for the Rocks programs and produce this CD in honor of her children and grandchildren.

"Shabbat Rocks is a statement about Shabbat," explains Glantz, who performs the Shabbat Rocks and its autumn and winter companion Havdalah Rocks ceremonies at Adat Shalom with Rabbis Daniel Nevins and Herb Yuskovitch and others. "It says that Shabbat itself can really 'rock'."

"It is not a rock 'n' roll service," says Rabbi Nevins, the drummer for the band. "Some parts feel folksy, some parts feel like soft rock, still others probably feel a little like New Age spirituals."

Rabbi Yuskovitch, in addition to adding light percussion in the live services, serves as "ruach" (spirit) specialist, encouraging participation and even moving people to dancing in the aisles.

To bring "Shabbat Rocks" to CD, Glantz hooked up with Detroit musician and producer J.C. Whitelaw, who has worked in the band Spank and with Detroit acts such as the Forbes Brothers and Jill Jack. Recorded at Whitelaw's studio, The Barn, in Beverly Hills, "Shabbat Rocks" features traditional Sabbath prayers and songs such as "Shiru Ladonai," "Yismechu Hashamayim," "Hava Ladonai," "Lecha Dodi," "V'shamru," the "Barchu" "Shabbat Shalom."

Morrine Maltzman joined the group in fall, 2001 and provides a solid background with her keyboard talents and musical capabilities.

Track two - a spiritually uplifting rendition of Hallelu - includes Glantz's 9-year-old son Rafi singing solo and in duet with dad, adding a sweet sound and warm family feeling. Also featured is Adat Shalom Cantor Emeritus Larry Vieder who chants "Kiddush," while the Adat Shalom Mixed Choir joins Glantz for "Aleinu," and the kindergarten class of the

Beth Achim Religious School at Adat Shalom takes part in "Shabbat Shalom." Elissa Berg, the synagogue's director of education, provides harmony vocals on three of the CD's tracks.

On "Shabbat Rocks," Glantz's goal is to deliver some of these familiar compositions with a modern flavor, incorporating contemporary instrumentation and refreshed arrangements.

In addition to songs by contemporary Jewish composers such as Debbie Friedman, Jeff Klepper, and Craig Taubman, Glantz includes a few of his own compositions on "Shabbat Rocks," "Ufros Aleinu," "Bracha Me-ein Sheva" and "Retzei."

"I was blessed with great teachers who brought out an improvisational style within me. When those improvisations keep coming back to me, I feel I may have something to put down on paper," Glantz said. "The 'Retzei' is the most recognizable to any of our Friday night 'regulars,' because I wrote it many years ago for my father, of blessed memory. The repeating spirited refrain on the words 'laheir libeinu' nearly forces the congregation to participate with rhythm and joy proclaiming the desire that (God) will cleanse our hearts."

The "Shabbat Rocks, Volume 1: Kabbalat Shabbat" CD is currently available at Adat Shalom Synagogue, Greetings From, and Warren Sav-More Pharmacy.

For more information, call 248-851-5100.

Downtown Birmingham lights up with holiday cheer!

Friday, December 6
4-10 p.m.



- * Take in the sights and sounds of carollers, horsedrawn carriage rides and festive in-store events!

- * Shop and Win: A Downtown Birmingham Shopping Spree!

- * Enter the children's coloring contest and receive a complementary Snow Globe!

- * Enjoy free hot cocoa and gift wrapping at the Maple Street Cafe!

- * Ride a free trolley around town to visit your favorite stores!

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- * Pick up an entry form at a participating store!
- * Visit 10 stores and have your form stamped.
- * Drop off the completed form at Maple Street Cafe December 5-8.
- * Maple Street Cafe is located at 166 West Maple Road at Bates Street.

Here are just a few of the participating stores:

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Village Travel and Cruise
Virtuoso Salon
Vita Brevis Gallery
Woodward & Maple
Zoom Artistic

Gill kids help out

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

When Carol Greening's third grade class at Gill Elementary in Farmington learned that a local charity organization needed help, they jumped into action.

In 10 days, they collected 815 boxes of 24-count crayons for Sweet Dreams, a Farmington-based, non-profit organization that provides bedtime essentials to at-risk children. The crayons were sent to Holmes Elementary in Detroit.

"Children helping children is a great way for kids to become involved in community service," said Nancy Bruno, a parent volunteer at Gill.

The children of room 3W put up posters in school and sent home fliers asking for crayon donations.

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